



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** June 12, 2007

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 Grant For The Microbial Source Tracking Protocol Development Project

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara authorizing the Parks and Recreation Director to Enter into an Agreement with the State of California for up to \$559,713 in Grant Funds from the Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 Clean Beaches Grant Program administered by the California State Water Resources Control Board, Pursuant to the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, for the Microbial Source Tracking Protocol Development Project.

### DISCUSSION:

The Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) Grant Program was initiated in response to the poor water quality and high exceedences of bacterial indicators revealed by AB 411 (Chapter 765, Statutes of 1997) monitoring at California's beaches. In November 2002, voters approved the *Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002* (Proposition 50) authorizing the issuance of bonds to fund a variety of water quality improvement projects. The 2005/06 Budget Act appropriated \$23 million of Proposition 50 funds for CBI projects. Up to \$10 million of the CBI funds was allocated for research projects.

The CBI Grant Program provides funding for projects that restore and protect the water quality and the environment of estuaries, bays, and near shore coastal waters. Funding priority is given to projects that reduce postings and closures on California public beaches caused by bacterial contamination. This year, research projects will be funded that are not directly tied to implementation projects. Research priorities include developing and testing source tracking tools in order to help environmental managers identify sources of fecal contamination.

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney

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The Creeks Division of the Parks and Recreation Department has requested Proposition 50 funds to pursue a research project that will be conducted in partnership with Dr. Holden at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Complementing a capital program that has installed end-of-pipe projects in three locations, the Creeks Division has worked with Dr. Holden to conduct research to identify the sources and routes of contamination in Mission Creek. The research has already confirmed and quantified markers for human waste in creeks, lagoons, and the surf zone. Unfortunately, the physical sources of human contamination remain elusive. The proposed research will identify where, when, and how human waste is transported to storm drains, creeks, and beaches in Santa Barbara. The value of the research is that it will support City efforts to reduce sources of human fecal pollution in creeks and coastal ocean. It will also provide protocols for coastal managers throughout California to use for conducting source investigations of storm drains that produce beach warnings due to exceedences of indicator bacteria standards.

In February 2007, the Creeks Division submitted a concept proposal for the Microbial Source Tracking Protocol Development Project to the State Water Resources Control Board's Consolidated Grants Program. The Clean Beach Task Force, representing the State Water Board, has recommended the project for funding in the amount of \$559,713. The Creeks Division is presently working out budget details and will submit an application for funds not to exceed this amount. Once the City submits a detailed application, the State Water Board can begin processing the grant agreement. A resolution of the City Council authorizing the Parks and Recreation Director to enter into a grant agreement with the State Water Board is required as part of this detailed application. The Creeks Advisory Committee was informed of the pre-proposal, and is unanimously in support of the project.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

It is estimated that the cost to complete the project is up to \$688,014. The Creeks Division is requesting up to \$559,713 from the Prop 50 funds. The Proposition 50 Grant requires a match of 15%. If grant funds are awarded, the City's match would be \$128,301, or at least 19% of the total project cost. Measure B funds would provide the match. Funds for the City's match are available in the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Creeks Division Budget.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

This research project will help improve recreational water quality at Santa Barbara beaches by providing tools to identify sources of bacterial contamination.

**PREPARED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office